

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 /155 W

----- 047246

R 060720Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6613

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, PK

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IRANIAN LEASE OF HELICOPTERS TO PAKISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 7382; ISLAMABAD 7617

1. STRONGLY ENDORSE AMBASSADOR HELM'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE URGENTLY RECONSIDER OUR TURNDOWN OF THE IRANIAN REQUEST FOR LEASE OF HELICOPTERS TO REPLACE UNARMED AIRCRAFT WHICH THE GOI WISHES TO SEND TO PAKISTAN.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, I HAD URGED THAT WE AGREE TO THE LEASE WHEN THE PROSPECT WAS FIRST RAISED EARLY LAST MONTH. SINCE THAT TIME THE INSURGENCY PROBLEM IN BALUCHISTAN HAS NOT IMPORVED. ALTHOUGH I AGREE WITH CONSULATE GENERAL KARACHI'S FINDING THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE STATE IS NOT MOVING TOWARD THE STAGE OF A GENERAL ORGANIZED INSURGENCY SUCH AS WOULD THREATEN THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN AND CANNOT BE TERMED A  
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REBELLION, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LAW AND

ORDER PROBLEM IS SERIOUS AND MAY WELL GET WORSE.  
THE MATTER HAS BECOME A HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE  
FOR THE GOP LEADERSHIP AND IS A SUBJECT OF CONSTANT  
HIGH LEVEL CONCERN HERE.

3. I AM CONVINCED THAT GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND THE  
PAKS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED BY IRANIAN  
INABILITY TO LOAN HELICOPTERS TO THEM AND WOULD  
CONCLUDE, AS THE IRANIANS HAD, THAT USG REFUSAL  
TO PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT TO THE GOI WAS PROMPTED  
NOT BY A SHORTAGE OF CHOPPERS IN OUR INVENTORIES  
BUT BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. I SUSPECT THEY  
WOULD SEE OUR MOVE AS A SIGNAL TO THEM THAT WE  
HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE WAY THEY WERE HANDLING THEIR  
BALUCHISTAN INSURGENCY PROBLEM OR THAT WE FELT  
THAT IT WAS NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT OUR  
CONCERN. NEITHER OF THESE CONCLUSIONS IS THE  
CASE, BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT THE PAKS, SENSITIVE  
AS THEY ALREADY ARE TO OUR MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY  
HERE, WOULD NOT BE MOVED BY OUR PROTESTATIONS.

4. TO REITERATE, LET'S DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO  
GET THE HELICOPTERS TO THE IRANIANS. THE PAKS NEED  
AND WANT THE IRANIAN AIRCRAFT AND I'M FULLY CON-  
VINCED THAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE  
USG TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET THEM.BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

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